



# James City Cavalry Picket Lines



February 2024 Dispatch – Williamsburg, Virginia

Camp #2095  10<sup>th</sup> Brigade  Virginia Division  Army of Northern Virginia

A patriotic honor society dedicated to community service and the preservation of the true history of the War Between The States.

## Next Muster

Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:30 pm  
Colonial Heritage Club House  
[www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us](http://www.colonialheritageclub.com/find-us)  
6500 Arthur Hills Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188



**Meal Cost: \$20.00 Per Person**  
**Payment by Check is Preferred**

Non-camp members please contact Jeff Toalson (757) 220-0131 or [troon24@cox.net](mailto:troon24@cox.net) to make a dinner reservation. Camp members will be contacted by the 'Call Team' for your reservation. Attendees without a reservation are welcome to attend the meeting but may not receive a dinner.

JCC Web Site: <http://www.jamescitycavalry.org>

To add or remove an email address for the Picket Lines distribution list, or for questions or comments regarding the newsletter, email to: [jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com](mailto:jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com). To email one of the camp officers directly, see **Camp Officers** on page 3.

## February Guest Speaker

Dr. Eric B.  
Schweickart

*“Discovery & Identification of WBTS Remains near the Magazine in Colonial Williamsburg”*



Eric's presentation will be about the recent excavation by the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Archaeology which uncovered two graves and a surgeon's pit associated with Confederate soldiers who died from their wounds while being treated in a field hospital following the Battle of Williamsburg. Eric will discuss what exactly was found during the excavations, go over the archival records associated with the field hospital, and describe the research which the team is currently doing on the remains and affiliated objects from the graves.

Eric Schweickart is a Staff Archaeologist with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and is currently working on large-scale projects re-analyzing the Custis Square gardens and Powder Magazine building. Eric has worked on several archaeological excavations in Virginia over the last decade, including the Anderson Armory in Williamsburg, the Montpelier Plantation in Orange County, and the Coan Hall site on the Northern Neck. Eric received his Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Colorado, his Masters Degree in Historical Archaeology from the University of Leicester, and his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

# Camp Journal for Last Muster

## Meeting:

Held January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Colonial Heritage Club House,  
James City County, Va., **31** Attendees

Welcome given by Compatriot Jim O'Donnell

Pledge & Salute to the Flags led by Aide de Camp Jon Holland

## Blessing:

Given by Chaplain George Corbett

Break for Supper

The SCV Charge read by Quartermaster George Bridewell

## Program:

1st Lt. Cmdr. Perry introduced the evening's guest speaker:

### Mr. Carson Hudson

Carson gave a very educational and interesting talk on "*Confederate Faces - A Photographic Study*." It is always a pleasure to host Carson as a speaker.



Mr. Hudson and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Perry

## Committee Reports and Announcements:

### Cemetery Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Steve White reported that cemetery work has been delayed by rainy January weather.

### Old & New Business

- Chief of Staff's Report – Chief of Staff Ken Parsons
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Denny Griggs
- Cmdr. Comments – Historian Fred Boelt

### New Member Induction

#### Dennis Manning



New Compatriot Dennis Manning is inducted into the James City Cavalry. LtoR: Chief of Staff Ken Parsons, Historian Fred Boelt, Dennis Manning and 1st Lt. Commander Ron Perry

### Book Raffle

Proceeds of \$43 were donated to the Camp Treasury for the raffle of the three donations.

### Benediction

Given by Chaplain George Corbett

## Camp Officers

Commander	Jeff Toalson <a href="mailto:troon24@cox.net">troon24@cox.net</a>
1st Lt. Commander	Ron Perry <a href="mailto:perryra@gmail.com">perryra@gmail.com</a>
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve White <a href="mailto:garrettsgrocery@gmail.com">garrettsgrocery@gmail.com</a>
Adjutant	Dave Watson <a href="mailto:djwatson61@cox.net">djwatson61@cox.net</a>
Chief of Staff	Ken Parsons <a href="mailto:kparsons320@gmail.com">kparsons320@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Denny Griggs <a href="mailto:dennisgriggs414@gmail.com">dennisgriggs414@gmail.com</a>
Chaplain	George Corbett <a href="mailto:georgecorbett@cox.net">georgecorbett@cox.net</a>
Aide de Camp	Jon Holland <a href="mailto:jonholland79@gmail.com">jonholland79@gmail.com</a>
Quartermaster	George Bridewell <a href="mailto:gbridewell@aol.com">gbridewell@aol.com</a>
Historian	Fred Boelt <a href="mailto:fwb@widomaker.com">fwb@widomaker.com</a>
Webmaster	Don Woolridge <a href="mailto:dsw1229@gmail.com">dsw1229@gmail.com</a>
Archivist/Editor	Paul Huelskamp <a href="mailto:jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com">jccpicketlinesdistribution@gmail.com</a>

## The WBTS in February

February 9, 1864: The *Fanny and Jennie*, a Confederate blockade runner, is sunk off Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. According to John Harden's *The Devil's Tramping Ground and Other North Carolina Mystery Stories*, she has aboard a special present for Robert E. Lee from British sympathizers -- a sword made of gold and studded with jewels. Although the wrecked ship remained visible for many years, no one has ever found the fabled sword.

Source: Gaston County NC Public Library, [The Civil War by Month](#)

## Commander's Comments

It is our honor to have Dr. Eric Schweickart, Staff Archaeologist with Colonial Williamsburg, as our speaker this month. There has been a great deal of erroneous information on the recent discovery of remains near the Williamsburg Magazine.

Eric will lead us on an in-depth discussion of where the remains were found, how many bodies were represented, the condition of the remains, artifacts that were discovered with the remains and the stories that these remains have provided to date.

The Magazine was next door to the Williamsburg Baptist Church which was used as a Confederate hospital in early May and then was abandoned on May 6th as Confederate forces withdrew toward Richmond. The Church then became a Union run hospital, mostly treating the Confederate wounded already on site. Dr. Schweickart will discuss the Union surgeon in charge, the records that have been found, and possible Confederate soldiers whose remains could be represented.

Artifacts include a toothbrush, two gold coins, and other items. Colonial Williamsburg is working with the U. S. Army on the reinterment of the remains. The Army is in charge of the burial and hopefully it will be at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Williamsburg which holds the largest number of Confederate graves in the area.

I met last month with Eric and two of his cohorts at Colonial Williamsburg. They have done a great deal of detective work but the evidence is thin and an exact identity of any of the soldiers is unlikely.

Please join us for our February meeting. Bring a guest. This will be a great program. Seating is limited to the first 45 reservations.

Jeff

# Confederate Gravesites

(Contributed by Compatriot Fred Boelt)

Continuing from last month's discussion of the Cowlesville family, in addition to John Cowles, born in 1841, John and Drucilla Tribble Cowles had two other sons who supported the Confederate cause. Little is known about the younger years of these men. However, in the 1850 census, Isaac Christian, a nineteen-year-old native of Charles City County, was living with the Cowles family and his occupation was listed as "teacher." He, very probably, was conducting classes for the Cowles children and other neighboring families.

Carter Washington Cowles, born in 1843, enlisted in the James City Cavalry on January 11, 1862, at the Halfway House (in Naval Weapons Station today). He served as a 1<sup>st</sup> Corporal and was paid at Amissville on June 12, 1863, for commutation of rations. On August 11, 1863, Cowles was paid \$550.00 for one horse killed in action at Kelly's Ford, and he was present on rolls from November 1863 through April 1864. He received a saber cut on his leg in action and was captured at Yellow Tavern on May 11, 1864. He was sent to Fort Monroe, transferred to Point Lookout and Elmira, New York. He died of typhoid fever on September 25, 1864, and was buried in the Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, New York.

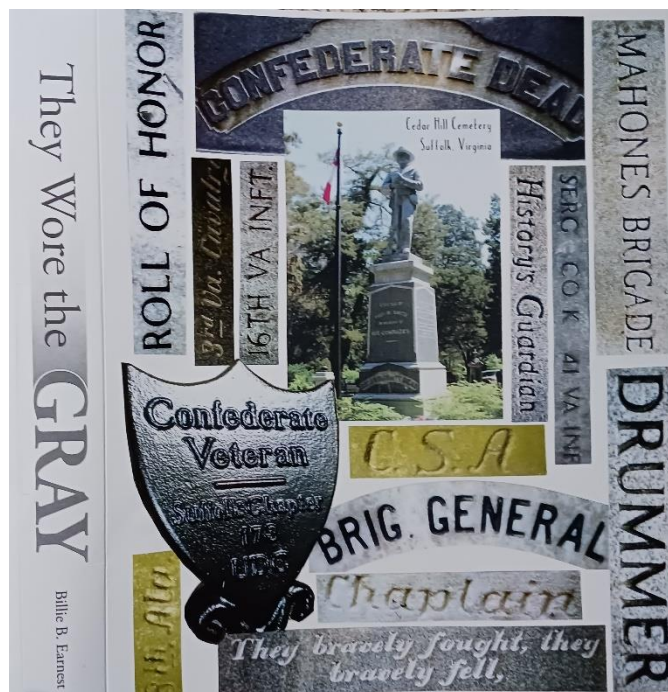
Peter Tribble Cowles, the third son of John and Drucilla Tribble Cowles, was born on August 23, 1844. He enlisted as a private in the James City Cavalry in Culpeper on April 1, 1863. He was present on rosters for November 1863 through April 1864. He was wounded in action in his right leg and captured at Burnt Ordinary on July 21, 1864. He was confined as a prisoner of war at Camp Hamilton, Virginia on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and on the 27<sup>th</sup>, he was sent from Yorktown to Point Lookout. Eight months later, Peter Cowles was transferred to Aiken's Landing, Virginia on March 17, 1865, where he was exchanged. He was admitted to Wayside Hospital in Richmond on the 19<sup>th</sup> with his old leg wound and transferred to Chimborazo Hospital on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Peter Cowles was given a sixty-day furlough on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March.

After the war on November 21, 1866, Peter Cowles married Laura Filmore Hubbard, daughter of Dr. Charles M. Hubbard and his wife, Mary Henley Hubbard. They lived at Grove Hill on Diascund Road across from Cowlesville and had twelve children. In addition to running his farm, he was one of the first public school teachers in Virginia. Later, he was appointed by the State Board of Education to be Superintendent of Schools for James City County after the death of Colonel James Harvey Allen in 1898. These two men served together in the Fifth Virginia Cavalry, taught school after the war, and when Colonel Allen bought Peach Park in 1882, they lived within a quarter mile of each other.

Peter Cowles died at his home on May 16, 1929. His funeral was held at Olive Branch Christian Church, and he was interred beside his wife in the Hubbard family cemetery adjacent to Olive Branch. At least seven of their children are also interred in that cemetery. The Williamsburg Post, No. 39, American Legion attended his funeral and Taps was sounded at the conclusion of the service. His obituary stated that he was "the last survivor of the Confederate Army in James City County at the time of his death." He had been a member of the Magruder-Ewell Camp, Confederate Veterans. Compatriot Billy Hynes of our camp is a great, great grandson of Peter and Laura Cowles.

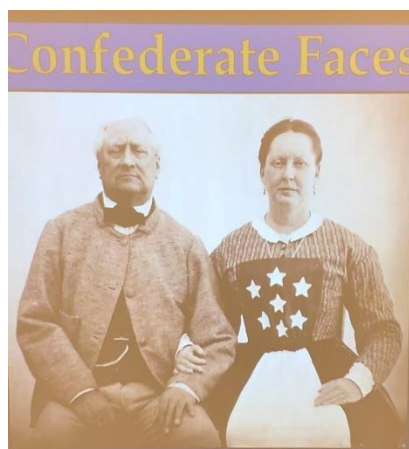
# Keating - Cavalry 2023 Donation to Swem Archives

On January 10th Fred Boelt and Jeff Toalson presented Jay Gaidmore, Director of the Swem Archives, with a copy of Billie Earnest's magnificent work honoring every Confederate soldier buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suffolk. This exhaustively researched historical work will be maintained in the archives for people doing genealogical research. It will be available only in the reading room. The photo of the cover illustrates a few of the interesting etchings on the hundreds of gravestones. This is the final Jean Keating - James City Cavalry donation to the Swem for 2023.



## Doppelganger Alert!

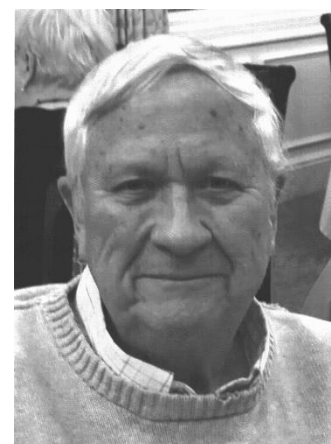
At last month's meeting Langston Shelton noticed how much Compatriot William Wallace resembled our speaker, Carson Hudson. He snapped some photos of Carson's presentation and of Compatriot Wallace. What do you think?



Carson's Original Photo

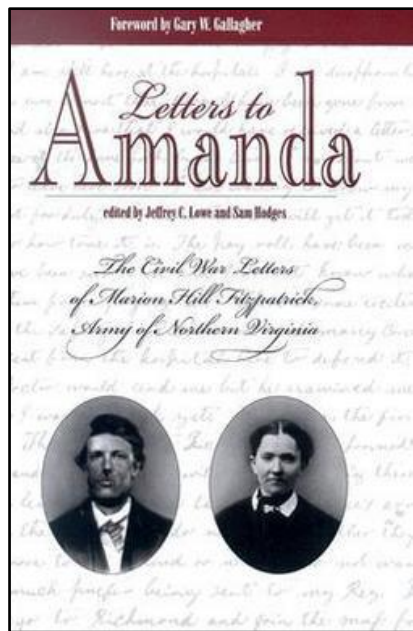


Carson in Period Attire

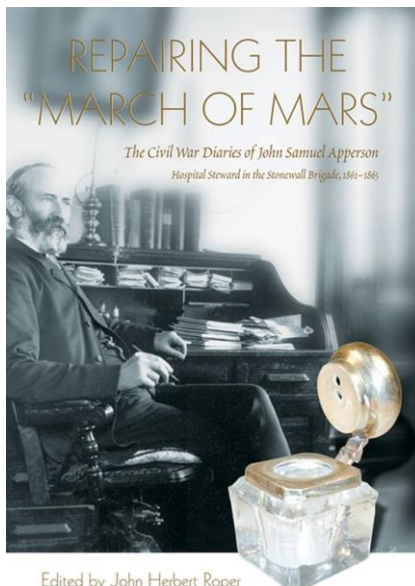


William Wallace

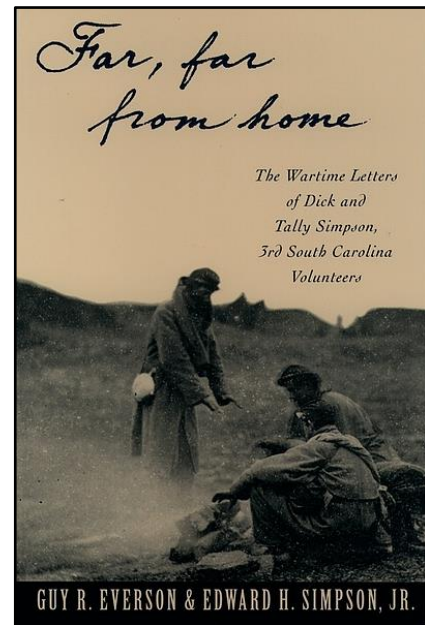
# February Book Raffle



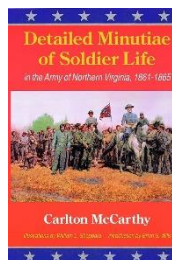
**"Letters to Amanda : The Civil War Letters of Marion Hill Fitzpatrick, Army of No. VA"**  
 Edited by Jeffery C. Lowe



**"Repairing the March of Mars - J. S. Apperson, Hospital Steward"**  
 Edited by John Roper



**"Far, Far From Home - Letters of Dick & Talley Simpson of 3rd S. Carolina"**  
 Edited by Everson & Simpson



**Bonus Book:**  
**"Detailed Minutiae of Soldier Life in the Army of No. VA"**  
 by Carlton McCarthy

# Williamsburg Civil War Round Table



<http://www.wcwrt.org>

**On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Scott Mingus will present:**

**"Confederate Calamity: JEB Stuart's Cavalry Ride Through York County PA"**